

CALIFORNIA STATE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

WALTER M. DICKIE, M.D., Director

Weekly Bulletin



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Entered as second-class matter February 21, 1922, at the post office at Sacramento, California, under the Act of August 24, 1912.
Acceptance for mailing at special rate of postage provided for in Section 1103, Act of October 3, 1917.

Vol. XVI, No. 17

May 22, 1937

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EDITOR

Automobile Trailers and the Public Health

The public health hazards of automobile trailers receive marked attention at the present time. Bills providing for the sanitation of automobile trailer camps have been introduced in several of the State legislatures, among them California.

At the annual Conference of State and Provincial Health Officers of North America held in Washington, D. C., last April, the committee on Interstate Transportation and Uniform Railway Code reported on the public health hazards associated with trailers. While the problem concerns itself largely with the migratory population, it must be recognized that each year the number of year-round automobile tourists is increasing rapidly. Public health officers are interested chiefly in the provision of safe milk and water and the sanitary disposal of human wastes. The committee believes that, with reasonable care and choice, safe water is readily available along the highways of many States. It believes that the obtaining of safe milk, while somewhat more difficult, offers no great hazard to the careful purchaser. The principal health hazard is the unsatisfactory and insanitary disposal of human excrement by trailer travelers. In spite of the large number of very attractive trailer houses that have appeared on the market recently, a satisfactory method of solving this principal sanitary problem involved has not as yet been developed.

The report reads as follows: "The matter can be

approached from two angles: (1) the proper construction of the trailers themselves, and (2) proper regulatory standards regarding the location and construction of trailer parks and camps.

"In the construction of the modern trailer, the sanitary facilities are in line with the requirements of a modern home, unstable though it may be.

"Aside from proper lighting and ventilation, essential for the comfort of the occupant, refrigeration for the preservation of milk and food is necessary, but of greater import is adequate water drainage and piping and the proper construction of sanitary toilets.

"Provisions are now generally made for small toilet compartments in which excreta is deposited in cans containing chemical solutions reported to render the waste innocuous.

"This is highly commendable and constitutes a distinct sanitary advance over earlier day when human waste was deposited rather promiscuously by the roadsides.

"A new complication has arisen from the use of the can privies on trailers—for, as yet, there is no adequate or satisfactory provision for the disposal of the wastes and the cleansing of the cans. It is not practical, as a rule, to dispose of these wastes in tourist camp privies, in the toilets of gasoline filling stations, or in the public comfort stations in cities. To throw the excreta on the ground in the open country

has the potential danger of contaminating a water supply as well as creating a nuisance.

"Trailer camp sanitation involves not only necessary provisions for the comfort of the trailerite, but some improved means for the disposal of human waste and the proper cleansing of the containers.

"The ideal plan would be to have plumbing connections with the trailer and direct with the camp's sewage system. The next most practical procedure, now used in some camps, is to have a sewage vat, with water connections and preferably steam for the cleansing and sterilizing of the trailer privy cans. An elaborate blue print plan for a model trailer camp has just been received, designed by the Colorado State Board of Health. This plan provides for 60 cars with trailers, shower baths for both sexes, in addition to toilets and laundry facilities. In each of the toilets, a flushbowl slop sink is recommended for the purpose of emptying the contents of chemical toilet receptacles which trailers carry. Steam lines are also recommended, located outside of the toilets to provide for sterilizing and thorough cleansing of these receptacles."

"It is generally felt that serious consideration must also be given to providing roadside facilities for the sanitary disposal of human waste from auto-trailers. It is possible that State or county departments of health could construct disposal systems near roads frequented by auto-trailers. Here could be located a combined comfort station and place for disposal of excreta. The location of such places could be made known by appropriate road signs.

"Such facilities would not only be greatly appreciated by the occupants of trailers, but the opportunities for the creation of nuisances would be materially lessened, and potential menaces to public health would be definitely removed.

"At the points of entrance to each State, means should be provided for the proper inspection of auto-trailers, as to sanitary conditions as well as the health of the occupants. Preventive measures such as small-pox vaccination and inoculation against diphtheria are important factors to be considered.

"At such stations information should be available regarding State laws and regulations pertaining to trailers in passage through the State, the location of trailer camps, and road comfort stations.

"Enforcement of regulations will be necessary probably through police or traffic patrol.

"It should be remembered that many of these nomads of the road, specially the neophyte, forgetting all about health hazards, will seek out an attractive

site near a mountain stream or by the seashore, often passing by the most ideal trailer camp that may be provided."

"It is evident that an educational program is needed for both the trailer travelers and operators of trailer camps, coupled with proper enforcements of existing codes for rural sanitation modified to adopt its provisions to the unstable character of the trailer population.

"In many respects this is distinctly a problem for the Sanitary Engineer, and it is hoped that the Conference of Sanitary Engineers at the next session of the American Public Health Association will give the matter due consideration.

"As a public health hazard, it is believed by the committee to be of sufficient importance to warrant the earnest attention of health officials and all others concerned with public health administration."

MANY FOOD INSPECTIONS MADE.

Eggs.

A survey of the frozen egg meat industry in northern California was made during April. The raw material was followed from its source to the cracking plants and cold storage warehouses. Visits were made to hatcheries, transportation companies, distributors, cracking plants, cold storage warehouses and packers. The main cause of decomposition and spoilage of canned frozen eggs was traced to the use of eggs that have been in the incubator from five to eighteen days and have been candled out as unfertile or the embryo has ceased to develop. Nonfertile eggs taken from incubators are generally of good quality and can be used for cracking purposes or even sold in the shell as third quality eggs but all others should be destroyed as unfit for human consumption because of the rapid decomposition. Managers of some cold storage plants have demanded inspection certificates of favorable analytical reports before accepting frozen eggs in storage. Some trouble was experienced due to excessive amounts of shells being allowed to fall into the egg products.

Wines.

In northern California, 290 official samples and 75 unofficial samples of wines were taken during April. 335,000 gallons of substandard wine were sent to distilleries for manufacture into brandy and 85,000 gallons of slightly substandard wines were blended so as to bring them within the standard. A systematic survey of wineries is being conducted in counties which have the largest numbers of such places with the result

that all substandard wines are found at their source and held up by quarantine. During the month 62,000 gallons of wines containing more volatile acid than is permitted were placed in quarantine.

Lemon Juice.

As a result of the rising market price on lemons, the substitution of imitation lemon juice is noted. Samples of lemon juice have been taken from various sources and submitted for laboratory examination. The practice of offering diluted lemon juice, with citric acid and oil of lemon added, has been increasing. The shortage of lemons due to the freezing of trees, will see an increase in the amount of such products. The sales are generally made to bars, and the bottles are unlabeled. Invoices read "Lemon Juice." In some cases the presence of sodium benzoate was not declared.

Used Containers.

Regular inspection of firms using second-hand containers were made during the month. The washers of glass were rechecked, and in many some improvement in their methods was noted. Although improved, the general sanitary conditions of most plants can stand additional correction. Bottles of beverages were inspected and several specimens were obtained. Each specimen shows lack of proper care, foreign material being carried to the product, as a result of poor washing and improper inspection of glass before filling. Among the plants inspected were included packers and manufacturers of mayonnaise pickles, relish, peanut butter, oils, salad dressings, syrups, beverages and wines.

Nut Meats.

Inspection of nut meats at cold storage plants and nut shelling establishments was undertaken and practically all lots of nuts were found in good condition.

One lot of nut meats reported by the United States Food and Drug Administration as being shipped to Utah, found in poor condition and reshipped to San Francisco was investigated by our inspector.

Upon arrival here the nut meats were reconditioned and packed in new containers before the inspectors arrived at the plant indicating quick work on the part of the management.

Unfit Food Products Destroyed.

During April, large quantities of dried figs, peaches and apricots were destroyed because of their unfitness for human consumption. Other products destroyed for similar reasons were noodles, egg products, beverages, wine, beer and shell eggs. None of this mate-

rial was destroyed until after every effort had been made to salvage it for human consumption.

Prosecutions.

Six cases involving violation of the Pure Foods Act were prosecuted successfully during April. Fines imposed ranged from \$25 to \$900.

Highway Eating Places Inspected.

Highway eating places and service stations were inspected and reinspected, during April, along the following highways: U. S. Highway No. 80 California-Arizona line to Imperial, San Diego line, including Holtville; Victory Highway through Sacramento County from Sacramento to the Solano county line; U. S. Highway No. 50 through Sacramento County from Sacramento to the El Dorado county line; U. S. Highway No. 50 through El Dorado County from the Sacramento county line to Camino; Slough-house Road through Amador County from the Sacramento county line to Ione; U. S. Highway No. 40 through Yolo County from the Sacramento county line to Davis.

Following is the summary of the results of these inspections and reinspections:

Eating places inspected.....	247
Number found satisfactory	129
Number with minor defects	79
Number with insanitary conditions	29
Service stations inspected	223
Number found satisfactory	164
Number with minor defects	34
Number with insanitary conditions	25

Improvements have been made in the majority of places reinspected.

Civilization, now over six thousand years old, and still in the making, is based on invention and teaching. When man found out how to chip a stone and so make a tool, the process did not become complete until someone had taught the community how to duplicate the tool and how to use it.

MORBIDITY

Complete Reports for Following Diseases for Week Ending May 15, 1937.

Chickenpox

1009 cases: Alameda County 2, Alameda 28, Albany 2, Berkeley 55, Oakland 42, San Leandro 1, Contra Costa County 6, Pittsburg 5, Fresno County 10, Fresno 7, Reedley 3, Eureka 1, Westmoreland 1, Kern County 14, Bakersfield 1, Los Angeles County 49, Alhambra 4, Beverly Hills 16, Culver City 3, Glendale 9, Hermosa 3, Huntington Park 1, Long Beach 56, Los Angeles 146, Manhattan 1, Pasadena 12, San Marino 1, Santa Monica 9, South Pasadena 2, Torrance 9, South Gate 2, Maywood 2, Madera County 1, Madera 9, Chowchilla 5, Marin County 2, Mendocino County 1, Salinas 3, Soledad 7, Napa County 22, Napa 4, Orange County 29, Anaheim 6, Fullerton 12, Orange 14, Santa Ana 1, Riverside County 13, Corona 1, Riverside 10, Sacramento County 1, Sacramento 33, San Bernardino County 4, Ontario 1, San Bernardino 2, San Diego County 15, Coronado 1, El Cajon 1, La Mesa 1, National City 13, Oceanside 1, San Diego 65, San Francisco 81, San Joaquin County 4,

Lodi 1, Stockton 10, Tracy 1, San Luis Obispo County 5, San Luis Obispo 2, Santa Barbara County 12, Santa Barbara 2, Santa Clara County 2, Mountain View 3, Palo Alto 16, San Jose 23, Sunnyvale 5, Vallejo 4, Tulare County 13, Lindsay 30, Porterville 1, Ventura County 4, Ventura 5, Yolo County 1, Davis 3.

Diphtheria

31 cases: Oakland 1, Contra Costa County 1, Fresno 3, Sanger 1, Los Angeles County 3, Los Angeles 15, Monterey County 2, San Francisco 2, Santa Barbara 1, Tulare 1, Yuba County 1.

German Measles

36 cases: Albany 1, Berkeley 7, Oakland 4, Humboldt County 3, Eureka 1, Fortuna 2, Los Angeles County 2, Compton 1, Long Beach 3, Los Angeles 7, Sierra Madre 1, Orange County 1, San Francisco 3.

Influenza

77 cases: Kern County 9, Los Angeles County 3, Los Angeles 6, Manhattan 1, Monterey Park 1, Madera County 39, Chowchilla 5, Placer County 3, San Bernardino County 1, San Diego 1, San Francisco 1, Tehama County 3, Tulare County 1, Lindsay 3.

Malaria

3 cases: Kern County 1, Los Angeles 1, Santa Ana 1.

Measles

247 cases: Alameda 1, Albany 1, Berkeley 6, Oakland 9, Fresno 2, Imperial County 1, Kern County 14, Los Angeles County 8, Azusa 1, Beverly Hills 1, Burbank 1, Glendale 6, La Verne 2, Long Beach 16, Los Angeles 26, Madera County 3, Orange County 1, Anaheim 6, La Habra 2, Placentia 2, Placer County 11, Colfax 12, Riverside County 2, Corona 12, Sacramento County 1, Sacramento 37, San Bernardino County 9, San Diego County 4, San Diego 8, San Francisco 3, San Joaquin County 4, San Luis Obispo County 1, Santa Barbara County 2, Santa Barbara 1, Santa Clara County 1, San Jose 1, Shasta County 1, Sierra County 2, Sutter County 8, Tehama County 3, Tulare County 1, Lindsay 2, Porterville 2, Winters 1, Yuba County 1, Marysville 3, California 5.*

Mumps

708 cases: Alameda 3, Albany 2, Berkeley 37, Oakland 21, Contra Costa County 7, Pittsburg 10, Fresno County 11, Fresno 4, Eureka 6, Imperial 2, Bishop 9, Kern County 11, Hanford 11, Los Angeles County 64, Alhambra 10, Arcadia 1, Azusa 1, Covina 1, El Segundo 1, Glendale 3, Hermosa 2, Huntington Park 4, La Verne 2, Long Beach 11, Los Angeles 44, Manhattan 10, Monrovia 5, Montebello 1, Pasadena 6, Pomona 1, San Gabriel 13, San Marino 1, Santa Monica 6, Torrance 1, Bell 1, Gardena 3, Madera County 6, Madera 16, Chowchilla 1, Marin County 1, San Anselmo 10, San Rafael 2, Mariposa County 1, King City 4, Orange County 13, Anaheim 1, Brea 4, Fullerton 12, Orange 4, Santa Ana 10, Riverside County 13, Beaumont 2, Corona 2, Hemet 15, Riverside 8, Sacramento 1, San Bernardino County 1, Chino 1, San Bernardino 1, San Diego County 11, Chula Vista 2, El Cajon 1, National City 7, San Diego 60, San Francisco 87, San Joaquin County 3, Stockton 4, San Luis Obispo County 3, Paso Robles 1, San Mateo County 1, Daly City 1, Santa Barbara County 6, Lompoc 5, Santa Barbara 4, Santa Clara County 4, Mountain View 3, Palo Alto 5, San Jose 18, Tulare County 1, Exeter 6, Lindsay 4, Tulare 1, Ventura County 11, Ventura 3, Yolo County 1.

Pneumonia (Lobar)

60 cases: Alameda 1, Oakland 2, Del Norte County 1, Humboldt County 3, Los Angeles County 1, Glendale 2, Los Angeles 26, Madera County 1, Madera 5, San Rafael 1, Monterey County 1, Monterey 1, Riverside County 3, Riverside 2, Sacramento 1, Isleton 1, San Francisco 5, Paso Robles 1, San Jose 1, Tulare County 1.

Scarlet Fever

198 cases: Albany 1, Oakland 3, San Leandro 1, Sutter Creek 1, Butte County 1, Chico 2, Gridley 1, Contra Costa County 3, Martinez 1, Fresno County 2, Fresno 1, Humboldt County 3, Eureka 1, Kern County 7, Bakersfield 5, Los Angeles County 17, Compton 5, Glendale 1, Huntington Park 1, Long Beach 5, Los Angeles 37, San Fernando 2, Hawthorne 1, South Gate 1, Maywood 1, Madera County 2, San Rafael 1, Mariposa County 2, Merced County 2, Modoc County 1, Alturas 2, Carmel 1, Napa 1, Nevada County 1, Orange County 4, Brea 1, Fullerton 1, Laguna Beach 1, Riverside 1, Sacramento 3, San Bernardino County 1, San Diego County 3, National City 1, San Diego 6, San Francisco 17, San Joaquin County 4, Manteca 1, Stockton 1, Daly City 1, Santa Barbara County 3, Santa Barbara 2, Palo Alto 2, San Jose 4, Sunnyvale 1, Watsonville 1, Siskiyou County 3, Mount Shasta 1, Healdsburg 1, Turlock 1, Sutter County 1, Tulare County 1, Lindsay 5, Porterville 2, Ventura County 1, Ventura 1, Yolo County 1, Yuba County 1, Marysville 2, California 1.*

Smallpox

35 cases: Butte County 1, Los Angeles County 2, Los Angeles 6, Modoc County 1, Alturas 1, Riverside County 5, Beaumont 1,

* Cases charged to "California" represent patients ill before entering the State or those who contracted their illness traveling about the State throughout the incubation period of the disease. These cases are not chargeable to any one locality.

Riverside 1, San Bernardino County 4, San Diego County 1, San Diego 2, Redding 1, Siskiyou County 5, Mount Shasta 2, California 2.*

Typhoid Fever

11 cases: Colusa 1, Imperial County 4, Los Angeles 1, Riverside County 1, Sacramento County 1, San Francisco 1, Montague 1, Stanislaus County 1.

Whooping Cough

617 cases: Alameda County 4, Alameda 3, Livermore 6, Oakland 7, San Leandro 3, Butte County 11, Contra Costa County 14, Fresno County 14, Fresno 9, Imperial County 13, Kern County 5, Hanford 8, Los Angeles County 31, Alhambra 8, Arcadia 2, Beverly Hills 1, Burbank 1, Claremont 5, Culver City 3, El Segundo 4, Glendale 4, Huntington Park 3, Inglewood 2, La Verne 3, Long Beach 5, Los Angeles 87, Manhattan 1, Monrovia 7, Montebello 1, Pasadena 24, Pomona 12, Redondo 2, San Fernando 3, San Marino 1, Santa Monica 7, Whittier 6, Torrance 5, South Gate 5, Monterey Park 1, Madera County 17, Madera 3, Marin County 6, Mendocino County 1, Orange County 5, Anaheim 5, Brea 2, Fullerton 7, Newport Beach 1, Orange 6, Santa Ana 11, La Habra 4, Tustin 1, Placer County 8, Riverside County 1, Sacramento County 1, Sacramento 11, San Bernardino County 4, San Bernardino 5, San Diego County 7, San Diego 6, San Francisco 39, San Joaquin County 38, Lodi 3, Stockton 17, San Mateo County 2, Burlingame 1, Santa Barbara County 13, Santa Barbara 7, Santa Maria 3, Santa Cruz County 1, Tehama County 7, Red Bluff 3, Tulare County 8, Lindsay 19, Ventura County 2, Ventura 6, Ojai 1, Woodland 2, Yuba County 2.

Meningitis (Epidemic)

3 cases: Pomona 1, Santa Monica 1, Anaheim 1.

Dysentery (Amoebic)

2 cases: Los Angeles 1, Santa Ana 1.

Dysentery (Bacillary)

One case: Los Angeles.

Pellagra

2 cases: Oakland 1, Madera County 1.

Polioomyelitis

3 cases: Berkeley 1, Kern County 1, Azusa 1.

Tetanus

One case: Los Angeles.

Trachoma

One case: San Francisco.

Encephalitis (Epidemic)

One case: Oakland.

Paratyphoid Fever

3 cases: Berkeley 1, Oakland 1, San Francisco 1.

Typhus Fever

One case: San Diego.

Jaundice (Epidemic)

One case: San Francisco.

Food Poisoning

21 cases: Los Angeles 14, South Pasadena 1, Anaheim 2, Santa Ana 2, Lodi 1, San Mateo County 1.

Undulant Fever

4 cases: Berkeley 1, Kern County 1, Lake County 1, Riverside 1.

Tularemia

One case: Kern County.

Coccidioidal Granuloma

One case: Ventura County.

Septic Sore Throat (Epidemic)

4 cases: Berkeley 1, Oakland 2, Santa Monica 1.

Rabies (Animal)

59 cases: Kern County 1, Kings County 10, Hanford 1, Los Angeles County 15, Beverly Hills 2, Glendale 1, Inglewood 1, Long Beach 1, Los Angeles 18, Manhattan 1, Montebello 1, Redondo 2, Madera County 1, Monterey County 3, Salinas 1.

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